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Iran Said to Execute Jewish Editor as a Spy for U.S.

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (AP) — Israeli television reported tonight that Iran had executed Simon Farzami, an Iranian Jew who was editor of The Teheran Journal, an English-language paper, on charges of espionage for the United States.

[In Washington, the State Department said it had no independent confirmation of the report and could not comment.]

Menashe Amir, who monitors foreign broadcasts for the Israeli state radio and television, said in a telephone interview that he had heard a report of the execution on Radio Monte Carlo's Arabic-language broadcast and that he then relayed the news to Israel television.

The Iranian Government has not announced a death sentence or made public any details of a trial. The Israeli Foreign

Ministry refused to comment.

Mr. Amir said the editor was arrested in February after militants holding the United States Embassy in Teheran produced documents linking him with the American press attaché. Mr. Farzami was executed Tuesday, the Israeli said.

"The students published documents of connections that other Iranian journalists had with the Americans, but he was the only one executed," Mr. Amir said.

If the execution has indeed occurred, Mr. Farzami would be the seventh Jew executed by the Islamic revolutionaries led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, according to Israeli experts on Iran. They said he would be the first executed on charges of spying for the United States.

The first execution of a Jew in revolutionary Iran was in May 1979, when Habib

Elghanian, a businessman and leader of the Teheran Jewish community, was shot after being found guilty of being a Zionist and of having contacts with Israel.

Mr. Amir said that the editor of The Teheran Journal was fluent in French and English. He was born in Isfahan, Iran, and was not active in Jewish community affairs, the Israeli said.